

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A radiation image read-out apparatus which is provided with a line sensor which detects stimulated emission emitted from a radiation image convertor panel upon exposure to a line-like stimulating light beam extending in a main scanning direction and reads out a radiation image recorded on the radiation image convertor panel while moving the line sensor and the radiation image convertor panel relatively to each other in a sub-scanning direction intersecting the main scanning direction,

wherein the line sensor comprises a CCD having a number of light receiving portions two-dimensionally arranged along the main scanning direction and outputs electric charges obtained by photoelectrically converting the stimulated emission received by the light receiving portions after binning the electric charges in a direction perpendicular to the main scanning direction,

wherein the line sensor has light receiving portions which are arranged in a direction perpendicular to the main scanning direction at least over a distance twice the width of the stimulating light beam, and

wherein the light receiving portions are smaller in the pixel size in the main scanning direction than a pixel size which is the largest in pixel sizes at which a radiation image can be

read out from the radiation image convertor panel at a predetermined resolution in the main scanning direction.

2. (canceled).

3. (currently amended): A radiation image read-out apparatus as defined in Claim 2 1 in which the line sensor has light receiving portions which are arranged in a direction perpendicular to the main scanning direction ~~at least~~ over a distance at least five times the width of the stimulating light beam.

4. (canceled).

5. (original): A radiation image read-out apparatus as defined in Claim 1 in which the line sensor is provided with a micro lens array extending in a direction perpendicular to the main scanning direction in front thereof.

6. (original): A radiation image read-out apparatus as defined in Claim 5 in which the micro lens array is provided over an area including the light receiving portions and the charge transfer paths of the CCD.

7. (new): A radiation image read-out apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein a register bins the electrical charges in a direction perpendicular to the main scanning direction.

8. (new): A radiation image read-out apparatus as claimed in claim 1 further comprising an amplifier wherein a register bins the electrical charges prior to outputting the electrical charges to the amplifier.

9. (new): A radiation image read-out apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the width of the stimulating light beam comprises an area having an intensity not lower than $\frac{1}{e^2}$ of a peak value in light intensity distribution in a direction perpendicular to the main scanning direction.